

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 300

By Todd

A RESOLUTION recognizing John A. Elkington of Memphis.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to specially recognize those Tennesseans who, through their commitment to professional excellence and their dedication to improving their communities, have served to make this State a better place in which to live and work; and

WHEREAS, John A. Elkington of Memphis is one such individual who has been recognized as the primary driving force behind the revitalization of Beale Street in Memphis. As the developer and manager of Beale Street, Mr. Elkington has transformed the street from blocks of abandoned buildings and empty streets into a premier entertainment district and one of the top tourist destinations in the State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elkington, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University in 1970 and a law degree from the Memphis State University School of Law in 1973, embarked upon his career as a homebuilder and property developer in 1974; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, John Elkington began redeveloping Beale Street and, over the past twenty-nine years, has completely resurrected the original home of the blues. As a result of his efforts, Beale Street businesses employ more than six hundred workers and have contributed more than \$44 million in sales and liquor tax revenues to the State; and

WHEREAS, in addition, W. C. Handy Park on Beale Street has been renovated at no cost to taxpayers, and is now one of the most visited parks in the State; and

WHEREAS, he wrote of the first twenty-five years of the redevelopment of Beale Street in his 2008 book, *Beale Street: Resurrecting the Home of the Blues*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Elkington was recognized as one of the top three hundred builders for the years 1982-1988 by *Professional Builder Magazine*,

was named one of Tennessee's Outstanding Young Men in 1980, was designated a Seeker of Change in 1982 by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, was chosen one of America's Future Leaders by *Esquire* in 1985, was named one of the "Fifty Leaders of Tomorrow" in *Real Estate Forum Magazine*, was appointed to served on the Tennessee State Board of Licensing Contractors (serving as chairman) in 1991 and the Film and Music Task Force in 1995, received the Blue Note Award from the National Blues Foundation, and was given the A.W. Willis Preservation Award by the Memphis Heritage Foundation in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the importance of serving one's community through civic involvement, John Elkington has dedicated his time, energy, and notable leadership skills to a number of organizations, including the Memphis Park Commission, the Memphis in May International Festival, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Memphis Special Olympics, and the Memphis Center City Commission, and he has rendered sterling service as the chairman of the Memphis and Shelby County Planning Commission, the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Parking Authority, and the Tennessee Board of Licensing Contractors; and

WHEREAS, John Elkington is perhaps proudest of the love and support he shares with his wife, Valerie Calhoun, and his three sons, Fletcher, Griffin, and Beau; and

WHEREAS, his vision and hard work have had a positive impact upon the City of Memphis and the whole of West Tennessee that can only be described as immeasurable, and it is wholly fitting that he be formally recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize John A. Elkington, applauding the prominent role he has played in the revitalization of Beale Street and downtown Memphis and extending our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.